

# HOUSE . . . . . No. 4543

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## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, December 17, 2012.

The committee on Ways and Means, to whom was referred the Bill to create the position of poet laureate for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts (House, No. 891), reports recommending that the same ought to pass with an amendment substituting therefor the accompanying bill (House, No. 4543).

For the committee,

BRIAN S. DEMPSEY.

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## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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In the Year Two Thousand Twelve  
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An Act to create the position of poet laureate for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:*

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 6 of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting, after section 38,  
2 the following section:-

3 Section 38A. (a) Biennially, on or before March 31, the governor may appoint a poet laureate  
4 for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts from a list of nominees submitted by the poet laureate  
5 nominating committee pursuant to subsection (b). The poet laureate shall seek to raise the  
6 consciousness of all commonwealth residents, especially school children, to a greater  
7 appreciation of the reading and writing of poetry. The poet laureate shall be appointed to serve  
8 for a term of 2 years or until a successor is appointed and qualified as provided in this section. In  
9 the event of a vacancy in the office of poet laureate, the vacancy shall be filled in the same  
10 manner as the original appointment.

11 (b) There shall be a poet laureate nominating committee consisting of the following 5 members:  
12 the speaker or the house of representatives, or a designee; the senate president, or a designee; and  
13 3 members appointed by the governor, 2 of whom shall be members of the board of directors of

14 the Massachusetts cultural council. Members of the poet laureate nominating committee shall  
15 serve without compensation.

16 (c) The poet laureate nominating committee shall advertise and receive nominations for the  
17 selection of the poet laureate for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Nominees shall be  
18 residents of the commonwealth and shall provide biographical and professional information, as  
19 well as supporting representative material, explaining why, based on their poetic  
20 accomplishments, they deserve recognition as the poet laureate for Commonwealth of  
21 Massachusetts. The poet laureate nominating committee shall review all nominations and select  
22 3 nominees to submit to the governor biennially on or before February 1.

23 (d) The poet laureate shall be an honorary position and the person appointed shall receive no  
24 remuneration. The person appointed to the position of poet laureate shall not be considered a  
25 state official or a state employee for such person's service in the position of poet laureate.